

TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
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SUMMARY MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL PLAN  
UPDATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF LOS GATOS **MAY 28,**  
**2009**, HELD AT THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER, 208 EAST MAIN STREET, LOS  
GATOS, CALIFORNIA.

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The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Jane Ogle.

**ATTENDANCE**

Members present: John Bourgeois, Barbara Cardillo, Jim Foley, Melanie Hanssen, Marcia Jensen, Libby Lane, Tom O'Donnell, Jane Ogle, Joe Pirzynski, Chuck Sloan, Barbara Spector, Tom Spilsbury, Deborah Weinstein, Gordon Yamate.

Members absent: Kevin Kelly, Dan Ross, Perry Hariri, Tim Lundell

Staff present: Wendie Rooney, Director of Community Development; Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner. Joanna Jansen and Agnes Chan, DCE

Public attendees:

**VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

*None*

**ITEM 1 Project Update**

Joanna, DCE, reviewed the schedule. The Town is about halfway through the process. To date three community workshops have been held. The Community Panels discussions were held on May 2, 2009. Each panel discussion was summarized as follows:

**ITEM 2 Discussion on May 2 Community Panels**

Environment & Sustainability Panel

Affiliation of panelists – Town of Los Gatos, City of Redwood City, Sustainable Silicon Valley, Natural Logic, Akeena Solar & Build By Design.

Discussion topics included sustainability, energy use, water, strengthening local green economy, greenhouse gasses and transit & transportation.

*GPAC Comments:*

- Page 4 – Land Use: established neighborhoods do not need to be changed; identify appropriate target areas

- Should the Town change minimum parking requirements?
- Promoting permeable pavement – need to distinguish between permeable surfaces and open space
- Artificial turf – new products are permeable.
- Safety concerns related to playing on artificial turf
- Consider providing parking for motorcycles and scooters Downtown (as well as electric vehicles)
- Destination data for trips that are less than two miles – where are people going? Dropping kids off at school, local errands/shopping are examples.
- Community bus was originally free; now it has a cost. Joe Pirzynski provided background on the Community bus program and noted that the fares were negotiated with VTA and are less than those charged on regular bus routes. Ridership has not changed significantly with the institution of fees (.50 for kids and seniors).
- Evolve user friendly transportation system, particularly for youth and seniors. Make use of bikes part of the culture. Bike shuttles and bike sharing programs were suggested.
- The concept of using more carrots than sticks: does this really work? The idea is to support private efforts rather than requiring them.
- Shift from auto dealerships to other uses – servicing of vehicles is still important to have in Town.
- Establishing a school busing program – is this realistic and are other communities doing this? The concept was supported.
- Bundling parking with housing projects (such as condos) was suggested.
- School districts need to work with the community to address parking and traffic impacts. One suggestion is not to allow more cars than can be accommodated (permitted number based on number of available spaces).
- Many issues fall under multiple categories.

#### Parks & Recreation Panel

Affiliation of panelists: Wild Bird Center, Outdoor Recreation in Los Gatos, United Soccer League and Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation.

Discussion topics included existing facilities, youth and family recreation needs, park and trail connectivity, collaboration between local agencies and the Town.

#### *GPAC Comments:*

- Where are deficiencies for adult and youth recreation?
- Multi- recreational uses should be provided for in the development of new facilities.
- Funds from the sale of land within Vasona Park to be used to develop property for recreation. Improvements could also be made to existing facilities.
- Funding for parks may be limited or restricted due to budget cuts; important to design new facilities for multiple uses (trends and popularity of sports change).

- In evaluating needs, there needs to be a true intent. There needs to be money behind programs.
- Use existing resources.

### **Senior Needs Panel**

Affiliation of panelists: Senior Housing Solutions, The Terraces, Los Gatos Meadows and Los Gatos-Saratoga HS District and Recreation.

Discussion topics included existing enrichment programs, challenges to successful senior care, relevant demographic trends, provision of senior housing and land use and seniors.

#### *GPAC Comments:*

- Need to hear from seniors as opposed to representatives of senior agencies and facilities.
- Lack of community space.
- Difficult to provide space that appeals to a wide spectrum.
- Promotional activities can get more people involved.
- Need places where people can gather for other than recreational activities.
- Start with statistics (needed to support setting goals and policies).
- Houses aren't built for seniors; need more accessible/functional units. Los Gatos Blvd. provides an opportunity for new housing.
- Access community engagement.
- People living in senior communities or facilities versus independent housing. Identify the different segments of the senior population.

### **Youth Needs Panel**

Affiliation of panelists: Youth Commission, Union School District, Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation, Los Gatos-Saratoga Union HS District and Los Gatos Union School District.

Discussion topics included existing youth services, youth and adult dynamics, emotional and family health, youth and Downtown, and youth transportation options.

#### *GPAC Comments:*

- Youth want spaces where they can gather and interact with limited or no adult supervision.
- Space within the library for youth.

### **ITEM 3 Dot Exercise**

The Committee members added dots to the items under each of the four panel topics.

#### **ITEM 4 Next Steps**

June 6 - Community workshop #3: The intent of the exercise is to tie the four topics and the Housing Element update to underutilized and/or redevelopment sites.

##### **GPAC Tasks**

- Visit sites on two maps provided prior to Community Workshop #3

The Committee expressed concern about having an exercise where people identify desired land uses for specific sites. The General Plan update was not intended to change land use and/or zoning designations. Would like to hear from the community on topics such as how to best integrate neighborhoods with abutting commercial. Input from the community on different uses and what they feel is acceptable or desirable.


#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Prepared by:

  
Suzanne Davis, Associate Planner